

Leaving MacD

McCann hits hype, not Hope

By Richard Sitts
Dine Bureau

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Navajo Tribe's Washington public relations firm took the brunt of criticism from former tribal press secretary David McCann Tuesday.

McCann, who resigned his position Sunday after only six weeks on the job, held a press conference Tuesday morning at the Gallup Holiday Inn to announce the reasons for his resignation.

"I was a herder of information, a

modern day sheepherder," McCann said. He had had the \$37,000 a year job since July 18.

While praising Project Hope and referring to Navajo Tribal Chairman Peter MacDonald as a "dedicated public servant," McCann lashed out at the Madison Public Affairs Group.

Formerly Miner, Fraser & Gabriel, the Madison Group is based in Washington, D.C., and handles all of the tribe's public relations work.

McCann said the firm was so intent on getting its contract renewed that it would "create" a story, or work to keep controversial stories alive.

"Project Hope is a good project, but it's a story about people helping, not controversy," McCann said. Prior to the project, which involves repair work being done on Navajo homes in the Bennett Freeze area and on Hopi Partitioned Lands, McCann said there were avenues of negotiation that were not used.

The two leaders — MacDonald and Hopi Tribal Chairman Ivan Sidney — could have sat down together, McCann said. Furthermore, he added, one chairman, (Sidney) had extended his hand, but has been "totally ignored."

This is because the Washington media group wants to keep the issue and the controversy alive, McCann said.

Out at Teesto, Ariz., where the repair construction began, McCann said he had been "awed" by the commitment of the people.

"Blessed are the peacemakers," he said.

"I would hope they (the Navajo people) would understand the truth beyond what any firm in Washington says," McCann said. "I adhere to a code of ethics that deals in truth."

"I was bound and determined to deal in the truth. In my heart I know I've done my best."

His job as Navajo press secretary, McCann said, came down to either "telling the truth or creating images."

Regarding recent allegations that MacDonald has taken thousands of dollars worth of chartered flights between Boston and the reservation, McCann said a consultant for the Madison Group told him that "we'll Please see McCANN, page 2.

Slain officers honored

By Betty Reid
Dine Bureau

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Arizona Gov. Rose Mofford honored the two slain Navajo police officers Tuesday, giving their widows the state's meritorious service awards.

Mofford, who made the trip here for a couple of hours to present the awards, told Navajo tribal police officers and family members that she was aware of the dangers involved in police work.

"My roots are deep in Arizona law enforcement," she said, noting that her husband and brothers served as law enforcement officers. "We came to honor the memory of two brave men who lost their lives while protecting our liberty."

She praised the officers, Andy Begay, 36, of Hachita, and Roy Lee Stanley, 27, of Oljeto for working in a field which she described as a "demanding and dangerous profession." Police officers who work in a remote area such as the Navajo Reservation must be "resourceful and self-reliant," she said.

Last month, a Salt Lake City jury convicted two men charged in the December slaying of



Russ Morgan of Navajo Nation Arts and Crafts in Window Rock

Fair opens

Improvements made

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Festivities for the 42nd Annual Navajo Nation Fair officially got under way today.

That means rodeos, traditional songs and dances, frybread, baby contests and country-western music will attract thousands from across the sprawling Navajo Reservation to this capital city.

The fair runs through Sunday.

This year's theme is "Navajo, a Nation of Opportunity."

A number of improvements will greet fairgoers this year. First, a large area between Nakai Hall and the east powwow arena is being

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paved, which will help keep the dust down. Also, a new restroom is being built on the east side of Nakai Hall.

Tribal officials say that as part of this ground improvement project, some improvements and new

Fair officials say the fair to excel in four livestock, song and dance and rodeos.